

## ABSTRACT

A method for providing secure transactions generates a Secure Card Number ("SCN") for a first entity that is transferred with a first entity identifier to a second entity and then to a money source that verifies that the transaction is valid by use of the first entity identifier and the SCN. The SCN includes a Transaction Information Block ("TIB") used for invoking one or more restrictions on use of the SCN, a Counter Block, and an encrypted Personal Identification Number ("PIN") Block. The SCN is transferred to the money source in an account number or a non-account data field. The TIB can be used by the money source to determine which of multiple account numbers associated with the first entity should be used for the first transaction. The money source can also use the TIB to determine whether the device which generated the SCN has a changed status condition, such as a low battery condition or an invalid user entry status. The low battery condition may be determined either by a diagnostic program or by an empirical record of the number of transactions presented for authorization.